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EXCISE

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9860

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC 2671

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR

USDAD; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MR. BRUNO

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 15 - 21

REF: A) KABUL 2025, B) KABUL 2028, C) KABUL 2053,

- D) KABUL 2043, E) KABUL 2037, D) KABUL 2069

1. (U) FOR ISLAMABAD AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO

DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING TO BRIEF PRESS.

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2. SUMMARY:

A. TO BE BRIEFED TO THE PRESS: THE AUGUST 17 PLANE CRASH WHICH TOOK THE LIVES OF PAKISTAN'S PRESIDENT ZIA, AMBASSADOR RAPHEL, GENERAL WASSON AND NUMEROUS PAKISTANI OFFICIALS, AND THE KABUL REGIME'S OFTEN INAPPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO THE TRAGEDY, OVERSHADOWED EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN. EARLIER IN THE WEEK, THE REGIME HAD INSTITUTED SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES IN THE CAPITAL, PROBABLY IN RESPONSE TO RUMORS OF MUJAHIDIN ATTACKS ON KABUL ON EITHER AUGUST 15, THE HALFWAY POINT IN THE SOVIET WITHDRAWAL, OR ON AUGUST 18, AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE/ARMY DAY. HOWEVER, THESE MEASURES PROVED LARGELY UNNECESSARY, AS KABUL EXPERIENCED A WEEK OF MILITARY CLASHES AND ROCKET ATTACKS ROUGHLY SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE WEEK BEFORE. FOR THE WEEK, THERE WERE 14 CONFIRMED ROCKETING INCIDENTS INVOLVING AT LEAST 50 ROCKETS. CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE IN THESE INCIDENTS ARE

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UNKNOWN BECAUSE A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE ROCKETS HIT IN MILITARY AREAS. THERE WAS ALSO A TRUCK BOMB INCIDENT IN THE OLD CITY. IN KABUL WEST, SOVIET/REGIME OPERATIONS SHIFTED AWAY FROM THE PAGHMAN PLAIN TO THE SOUTHWEST ALONG THE KABUL-MAIJAN SHAHR ROAD, AND HEAVY FIGHTING WAS REPORTED AROUND CHOWKI ARGHANDEH. IN THE SHOMALI, MUJAHIDIN CONTINUED TO STYMIE REGIME EFFORTS TO REESTABLISH CONTROL. MORE DETAILS HAVE EMERGED CONCERNING THE BATTLE FOR KONDUZ AND THE SOVIET ROLE IN AIDING REGIME FORCES. AFGHAN SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT A MAJOR SOVIET MILITARY DISASTER OCCURRED AT KALAGAY, BAGHLAN PROVINCE, WHERE THE POL-E KHOMRI AMMO DUMP BLEW UP AND OVER 100 SOVIETS LOST THEIR LIVES. HEAVY FIGHTING BETWEEN MUJAHIDIN AND REGIME FORCES IS REPORTED IN TAKHAR AND KONAR PROVINCES. THE SITUATION IN KANDAHAR APPEARS QUIET, BUT IS WORSENING IN HERAT. THE REGIME MAY BE USING ITS LITERACY DRIVE AS A MEANS OF RECRUITING YOUTHFUL INFORMERS. THE REGIME CONTINUES TO IMPRESS PERSONS INTO THE ARMED FORCES. SHAHNAWAZ TANAI HAS BEEN NAMED DEFENSE MINISTER. WESTERN JOURNALISTS WHO VISITED A REFUGEE HALFWAY HOUSE AT THE INVITATION OF THE REGIME FOUND OFFICIAL CLAIMS ABOUT THE "PEACE HOUSE" TO BE FALSE.

B. NOT TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: INDIAN DEPENDENTS MAY EVACUATE KABUL BY LATE SEPTEMBER. DIPLOMATS REPORT A RUMOR THAT NAJIBULLAH TRAVELLED SECRETLY TO MOSCOW EARLY THIS WEEK. BABRAK KARMAI HAS REPORTEDLY SUNK DEEP INTO ALCOHOLISM IN MOSCOW. INFORMATION ON THE DISPOSITION OF COMMANDER MASUD'S FORCES IS GIVEN BY A MUJAHIDIN SOURCE. A PRESUMABLY REGIME-SPONSORED RUMOR:

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IS CIRCULATING THAT GULBUDDIN BEKMATYAR HAS BEEN KILLED
A SOVIET-CIRCULATED VERSION OF THE BATTLE FOR KONDUZ
HAS SURFACED WHICH HAS COLORFUL DETAILS, BUT PREDICTABLE
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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR

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E.O. 12356: DECL:00

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 15 - 21

OMITS MENTION OF ANY SOVIET ROLE IN THE BATTLE AND TAKES

A SWIPE AT HEKMATYAR. END SUMMARY.

3. (U) KABUL MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WAKE OF
 RUMORS OF POSSIBLE MUJAHIDIN ATTACKS ON AUGUST 15, THE

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HALFWAY POINT IN THE SOVIET WITHDRAWAL. DR. ON INDEPENDENCE DAY (AUGUST 18) THE REGIME INSTITUTED SPECIAL SECURITY MEASURES IN THE CAPITAL. SHAB NAMA (NIGHT LETTERS) DISTRIBUTED BY MUJAHIDIN HAD WARNED THAT AUGUST 15 AND 18 WOULD BE A DANGEROUS TIMES, PARTICULARLY FOR PERSONS LIVING IN KHAIR KHANA, KOT-E SANGI, DASHT-E BARCHI AND KART-E SEY. HOWEVER, REGIME SECURITY MEASURES PROVED LARGELY UNNECESSARY, AS KABUL EXPERIENCED A WEEK OF MILITARY CLASHES AND ROCKET ATTACKS ROUGHLY SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE WEEK BEFORE. FOR THE WEEK THERE WERE 14 CONFIRMED ROCKETING INCIDENTS INVOLVING A TOTAL OF 50-55 ROCKETS. AS WAS THE CASE LAST WEEK, A LARGE PROPORTION OF THE ROCKETS APPEAR TO HAVE HIT MILITARY TARGETS IN AND AROUND THE AIRPORT, AND BECAUSE OF THIS CASUALTY AND DAMAGE ESTIMATES ARE UNAVAILABLE. ON AUGUST 15 THERE WERE FOUR ROCKETING INCIDENTS. AT 1115 TWO ROCKETS HIT IN FRONT OF A ROW OF SHOPS IN THE MIKRORAYON AREA, KILLING FOUR AND INJURING NINE. DURING THE EVENING, THREE ROCKETS HIT QALAI AHMAD

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KHAN IN SE KABUL, KILLING NINE. ONE ROCKET HIT THE KUCH-E BARANA SECTION OF THE OLD CITY, DEMOLISHING AN ICE CREAM SHOP AND CAUSING UNKNOWN CASUALTIES. AT 2000, THREE ROCKETS HIT QALAI WASILABAD IN SW KABUL WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. ON AUGUST 16 THERE WERE FIVE ROCKETING INCIDENTS. AT 0355, AT LEAST FIVE ROCKETS HIT IN THE AIRPORT AREA, FOLLOWED BY RETURN FIRE. AT 0415, AT LEAST SEVEN ROCKETS STRUCK THE KART-E NAU AREA IN SE KABUL WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. AT 0500, THREE ROCKETS HIT IN THE WAZIRABAD AREA TO THE WEST OF THE AIRPORT. AT 0600, DIPLOMATS REPORT THAT SIX ROCKETS HIT KART-E PARWAN IN WESTERN KABUL. AROUND 1120, A SINGLE ROCKET LANDED IN CHAR QALA, TO THE SW OF THE AIRPORT, DESTROYING A HOUSE BUT CAUSING NO CASUALTIES. ON AUGUST 16 THERE WERE THREE INCIDENTS. AT 0800, TWO ROCKETS HIT THE AIRPORT AREA WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. AT 1740, AT LEAST EIGHT ROCKETS HIT THE AIRPORT, AND AT 2300 SEVEN MORE ROCKETS HIT IN THE AIRPORT AREA WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. ON AUGUST 20 AT 0430, TWO ROCKETS HIT IN THE RISHKHOR AREA NEAR DARULAMAN. FINALLY, ON AUGUST 21, TWO ROCKETS LANDED TO THE NORTH OF THE AIRPORT RUNWAY WITH UNKNOWN RESULTS. TWO BOMBS WERE FOUND AND DEFUSED ON AUGUST 17, THE FIRST AT HOTEL 555 NEAR THE SHER PUR MOSQUE, AND THE SECOND IN KHAIR KHANA. ON AUGUST 20 AT 1100, A BOMB PLANTED IN A TRUCK EXPLODED ON THE JADI MAIWAND IN THE OLD CITY. ACCORDING TO REGIME ACCOUNTS, ONLY SIX PERSONS WERE INJURED. HOWEVER, AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT AT LEAST TWO PERSONS IN THE TRUCK WERE KILLED. OTHER MILITARY INCIDENTS OF NOTE INCLUDED THE

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CRASH AND EXPLOSION OF AN M-22 HAND HELICOPTER AT THE
AIRPORT AT 1100 ON AUGUST 19. HEAVY SMALL ARMS FIRE IN
THE AREA OF THE ARG PALACE ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 19.
AND A GRENADE ATTACK ON THE BALA HISSAR IN THE EARLY
MORNING HOURS OF AUGUST 20 BY UNKNOWN PERSONS.
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ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 15 - 21

-- PROVINCIAL MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS --

4. (U) KABUL WEST: MILITARY OPERATIONS CONTINUED IN

THE PAGHMAN AREA, BUT WITH SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

INTENSITY. ACCORDING TO AFGHAN AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, :

BY AUGUST 15 REGIME AND SOVIET FORCES HAD COMPLETED :

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THEIR SWEEP OPERATION IN THE PAGHMAN AREA AND HAD SHIFTED THEIR AXIS OF ADVANCE SW TO THE KABUL-MAIDAN SHAHR ROAD. SOVIET AND AFGHAN FORCES CONTINUED TO BOMBARD THE PAGHMAN AREA NIGHTLY AND DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING, BUT THE AREA WAS CONSIDERED SUFFICIENTLY SAFE TO REOPEN THE KARGHA LAKE AREA TO FOREIGNERS. ON AUGUST 17, DIPLOMATS VISITING THE KARGHA RESTAURANT NOTED 11 SOVIET ARMORED VEHICLES, EIGHT D-30 FIELD GUNS AND FOUR BM-21 ROCKET LAUNCHERS DEPLOYED TO THE SOUTH OF THE LAKE. SOUNDS OF COMBAT FROM THE PAGHMAN AREA WERE SPORADIC. AFGHAN SOURCES STATE THAT SOVIET TROOPS ARE NO LONGER IN PAGHMAN TOWN, WHICH IS GARRISONED BY REGIME FORCES, AND THAT MOST UNITS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN EITHER TO KABUL OR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SOVIET/REGIME OFFENSIVE DOWN THE ROAD TO MAIDAN SHAHR. ON AUGUST 20, AFGHAN SOURCES REPORTED HEAVY FIGHTING NEAR CHOWKI ARGHANDEH, ON THE ROAD TO MAIDAN SHAHR, WITH

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MANY REGIME CASUALTIES ARRIVING AT KABUL HOSPITALS.

5. (U) KABUL NORTH: MUJAHIDIN REGAINED THEIR HOLD ON THE SHAKAR DARREH AREA AGAINST REPEATED FORAYS BY REGIME TROOPS AND HEAVY NIGHT BOMBARDMENTS BY SOVIET ARTILLERY BASED IN DASHT-E CHAMTALA AND KOTAL-E KHAIR KHANA. ON AUGUST 13, AFGHANS REPORT THAT MUJAHIDIN CAPTURED THREE AMMUNITION TRUCKS ON THE SALANG ROAD IN THE CHARIKAR AREA (PARWAN PROVINCE). ON AUGUST 15, FIGHTING BETWEEN MUJAHIDIN AND REGIME FORCES WAS REPORTED AROUND KARIZ-E MIR (34°38'N 69°03'E), AND THE SALANG ROAD WAS BLOCKED BY MUJAHIDIN FOR MOST OF THE MORNING. DRIVERS COMING SOUTH REPORT SEEING MANY BURNING MILITARY TRANSPORT TRUCKS IN THE SALANG PASS ON THIS DAY. ON AUGUST 16, AFGHAN SOURCES REPORTED SOVIET BOMBARDMENT OF THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA JUST NORTH OF KHAIR KHANA. COMBAT ACTIVITIES APPEARED TO SLACKEN TOWARDS THE END OF THE WEEK WITH MUJAHIDIN STILL IN CONTROL OF SUBSTANTIAL AREAS OF THE SHOMALI, INCLUDING SHAKAR DARREH.

6. (U) KABUL EAST: FIGHTING BETWEEN MUJAHIDIN AND REGIME FORCES CONTINUED IN KOH-E SAFI THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. ON AUGUST 17, MUJAHIDIN BOMBARDED THE TOWN OF SORUBI WITH 18 ROCKETS, REPORTEDLY CAUSING HEAVY CASUALTIES. ON AUGUST 18, AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT TWO ROCKETS STRUCK THE POL-E CHARKHI AREA, ONE CLOSE TO A MILITARY BARRACKS, THE OTHER NEAR POL-E CHARKHI PRISON. SOVIET FORCES CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK TO FORTIFY HILLTOP POSITIONS IN KABUL EAST, USING HELICOPTERS TO LIFT TANKS AND GUNS TO COMMANDING PEAKS OVERLOOKING THE JALALABAD ROAD. AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT MANY OF THESE TANKS ARE NOW DUG IN.

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7. (U) KONDUZ: DESPITE REGIONAL ASSERTIONS EARLY IN THE
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TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCPAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 15 - 21

WEEK THAT THE SITUATION IN KONDOUZ WAS UNDER CONTROL,

MULTIPLE AFGHAN SOURCES REPORTED THAT AS OF AUGUST 16,

MUJAHIDIN STILL HELD PARTS OF THE CITY, AND THAT ONLY

KONDOUZ AIRPORT WAS INDISPUTABLY IN THE HANDS OF RESISTANCE

FORCES. ALSO, ALTHOUGH SOVIET OFFICIALS DENY THAT THE

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TRAGEDY, AND LATER ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT IF FOUL PLAY
WAS SUSPECTED, PAKISTAN SHOULD LOOK FOR ITS INTERNAL
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ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 15 - 21

DISSIDENT GROUPS AS THE PRIME SUSPECTS. DURING A SPEECH

ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 19, NAJIBULLAH EXPRESSED HIS

REGRET OVER THE TRAGEDY AND HIS HOPES FOR BETTER

RELATIONS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN IN THE

FUTURE. ORDINARY AFGHANS APPEAR CONVINCED THAT ...

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TROOPS PLAYED ANY ROLE IN THE BATTLE; MULTIPLE SOURCES INDICATE THAT SOVIET AIRCRAFT BASED IN THE USSR CONDUCTED DAILY RAIDS ON KONDUZ INVOLVING UP TO 30 AIRCRAFT AT A TIME, AND SOVIET TRANSPORTS WERE USED TO FERRY REGIME TROOPS TO KONDUZ TO TAKE PART IN THE BATTLE. DURING ONE OF THESE REINFORCEMENT OPERATIONS, DIPLOMATIC SOURCES INDICATE THAT AN AN-32 WAS SHOT DOWN WHILE ATTEMPTING TO LAND AT KONDUZ AIRPORT, KILLING ALL 39 PERSONS ON BOARD. ON AUGUST 17, REGIME MEDIA PUBLISHED REPORTS OF A "RETURN TO NORMALCY" AT KONDUZ, AND IN THE EVENING BROADCAST AN HOUR PROGRAM ON THE BATTLE SHOWING FOOTAGE OF THE TOWN FROM A HELICOPTER AND CLAIMING COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE CITY. PERSONS FAMILIAR WITH THE CITY, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT THE FOOTAGE SHOWED ONLY A PORTION OF THE TOWN, AND THAT MUJAHIDIN LIKELY STILL CONTROLLED PORTIONS OF KONDUZ AT THAT TIME. ALSO, THE FILM FOOTAGE INADVERTENTLY CONFIRMED SOVIET MILITARY INVOLVEMENT BY SHOWING THE MASSIVE DAMAGE DONE TO THE CITY--WHICH ONLY COULD HAVE BEEN THE RESULT OF

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AIRSTRIKES (REGIME OFFICIALS HAVE CLAIMED THAT MUJAHIDIN CAUSED ALL THE DAMAGE). BY THE END OF THE WEEK, AFGHAN SOURCES REPORTED THAT THE REGIME HAD FINALLY ESTABLISHED CONTROL OVER MOST OF THE CITY, WHILE SUFFERING AT LEAST 200 CASUALTIES ON THE GROUND. (SOME SOURCES CLAIM REGIME DEAD AS HIGH AS 800.) REGIME MEDIA CLAIMS THAT MUJAHIDIN LOSSES TOTALLED 265.

8. (U) BAGHLAN: AFGHAN SOURCES INDICATE THAT ON AUGUST 10 THE MAJOR SOVIET AMMUNITION DUMP AT KALAGAY (NEAR POL-E KHOMRI) WAS SUBJECT TO MUJAHIDIN ROCKET ATTACK. AS A RESULT OF ONE OR TWO ROCKET HITS, THE AMMUNITION DUMP EXPLODED, KILLING 109 SOVIET SOLDIERS. HELICOPTERS PARKED NEARBY WERE ALSO DESTROYED, AS WELL AS SOME FUEL STOCKS. ONE SOURCE SAID EIGHT HELICOPTERS WERE DESTROYED. THE DESTROYED FACILITY IS BELIEVED TO BE ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL AMMUNITION STORAGE SITES OF THE SOVIET 40TH ARMY.

9. (U) TAKHAR: AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT HEAVY FIGHTING IS GOING ON AROUND THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF TALOQAN. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE, MUJAHIDIN TOOK THE CITY ON AUGUST 13, BUT THIS REPORT IS UNCONFIRMED.

10. (U) KONAR: AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT FIGHTING IS HEAVY AROUND THE TOWN OF ASMAR (35°02'N 71°22'E). ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATS, MORALE AMONG RA TROOPS IN THE ASMAR AREA IS EXTREMELY LOW. MOST OF THE SOLDIERS ARE CONSCRIPTS WHO WERE TAKEN OUT OF UNIVERSITY OR HIGH SCHOOL, GIVEN ONE MONTH'S BASIC TRAINING, AND SENT OUT FOR GARRISON DUTY. MANY OF THE DRAFTED ARE ILLEGITIMATE

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FOR COMBAT, AND ARE SENT BACK TO KABUL SUFFERING FROM
 BATTLE FATIGUE (I.E. NERVOUS BREAKDOWN); DESERTION
 RATES AT ASMAR ARE REPORTEDLY VERY HIGH IN HIS AUGUST
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	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	EAP-00	PA-01	OMB-01
	INRE-00	RP-10	ACDA-12	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	PRS-01
	DS-01	P-02	T-01	/099 W			

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9864

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCDNSUL JERUSALEM

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY SANA'A

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USIA WASHDC 2675

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

USNMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//

DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

RUCLFNA/347 TFW MOODY AFB GA//IN//

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

FSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTEVILLE VA//AIAST-IO/CMII//

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR

USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MR. BRUND

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 15 - 21

15 NEWS CONFERENCE, NAJIBULLAH NOTED THAT THE SITUATION

IN KONAR PROVINCE WAS "VERY ACUTE", AND ACCUSED

PAKISTANI MILITIA, EQUIPPED WITH THE NEWEST AMERICAN

WEAPONS, OF PARTICIPATING IN COMBAT THERE.

11. (U) NANGARHAR: REGIME AND AFGHAN SOURCES REPORTED

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CONTINUED FIGHTING AROUND JALALABAD. ACCORDING TO REGIME MEDIA, ON AUGUST 13 MUJAHIDIN ROCKETED THE FIRST AND SECOND PRECINCTS OF THE CITY, KILLING SIX PERSONS AND DESTROYING A HOUSE.

12. (U) LOGAR: ACCORDING TO AFGHAN SOURCES, ON AUGUST 12 A REGIME POST NEAR THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF PULI ALAM WAS OVERRUN BY MUJAHIDIN. THREE RA TROOPS WERE KILLED AND AMMUNITION AND EQUIPMENT CAPTURED.

13. (U) PAKTIA: AFGHANS REPORT THAT DURING THE PAST WEEK REGIME AIRCRAFT BOMBED THE AREA AROUND ALI KHEL, KILLING 18 PEOPLE AND DESTROYING SIX HOUSES.

14. (U) GHAZNI: AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT DURING A BATTLE IN GHAZNI CITY ON AUGUST 14, MUJAHIDIN KILLED 12 RA SOLDIERS AND CAPTURED FIVE. THEY ALSO MADE OFF WITH A JEEP AND TWO TRUCKS CARRYING AMMUNITION. ACCORDING TO

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THESE SOURCES, THE OLD CITY (SHAR-E KUNNAH) IS NOW IN MUJAHIDIN HANDS, WITH THE NEW CITY (SHAR-E NAU) STILL UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL. ON AUGUST 17, AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT NEAR THE TOWN OF GARABAGH A REGIME TANK WAS HIT BY A ROCKET AND ITS CREW KILLED.

15. (U) KANDAHAR: ACCORDING TO AFGHANS, ON AUGUST 8 MUJAHIDIN CONDUCTED A ROCKET ATTACK AGAINST KANDAHAR AIRPORT, DESTROYING AT LEAST ONE HELICOPTER. THE SITUATION IN KANDAHAR IS RELATIVELY QUIET, ALTHOUGH THERE IS FIGHTING ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN AND WATER AND TELEPHONE SERVICE ARE IRREGULAR. IN KANDAHAR, ONLY THE HOMES OF THE LOCAL LEADERSHIP ARE SAID TO HAVE ELECTRIC POWER. ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, ESMATULLAH MUSLIM IS STILL RESIDING IN KABUL, AND HAS NO PLANS TO RETURN TO THE KANDAHAR AREA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MUSLIM REPORTEDLY HAS AT LEAST 13 WIVES, NOT COUNTING ONE HE RECENTLY MURDERED. WHILE IN KABUL, HE MOVES CONTINUALLY FROM ONE HOUSE TO ANOTHER (HE REPORTEDLY HAS 19 RESIDENCES IN THE CITY).

16. (U) HERAT: AFGHANS REPORT THAT THE REGIME'S MILITARY SITUATION IN HERAT IS ACTUALLY WORSE THAN IT IS IN KANDAHAR, DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET TROOPS. THE CENTER OF TOWN IS QUIET, BUT MUJAHIDIN CONTROL THE OUTSKIRTS.

17. (U) SAR-E POL: AFGHAN SOURCES REPORT THAT MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A REGIME POST OUTSIDE SAR-E POL WULUSWALI. FIVE RA TROOPS SURRENDERED.

18. (U) HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

A. LITERACY CAMPAIGN OR INFORMANT CAMPAIGN? AS PART OF
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	DS-01	P-02	T-01	/099 W			

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O 220606Z AUG 88

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USIA WASHDC 2676

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USCINCCENT MACOILL AFB FL

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FT BRAGG NC AFVS//POE//SB

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE

HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

USVMR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 09 KABUL 02090

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MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, PREF, ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITREP: AUGUST 15 - 21

THE GOVERNMENT'S LITERACY CAMPAIGN, LITERACY TEACHERS

ARE GOING DOOR TO DOOR IN THE KABUL AREA TO FORM SMALL

CLASSES TO TEACH YOUNGSTERS HOW TO READ AND WRITE.

AFGHANS REPORT HOWEVER, THAT SOME OF THE "LITERACY

TEACHERS" SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME INTERVIEWING OTHERS.

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PUPILS ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR PARENTS. WHO SOME
ASK THE STUDENTS TO LET THEM KNOW OF ANY UNPATTERNE
ACTIVITIES. BECAUSE OF THIS, MANY AFGHANS ARE
FORBIDDING THEIR CHILDREN TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH
PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE LITERACY CAMPAIGN.

3. DRAFT EVADERS. IN A RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE,
NAJIBULLAH STATED THAT OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS, OVER
10,000 PERSONS IN THE KABUL AREA HAD BEEN DRAFTED INTO
THE ARMED FORCES. HOWEVER, NOT EVERYONE GOES
WILLINGLY. AFGHANS REPORT THAT ON AUGUST 15 IN
CHENDAWAL (THE SW SECTION OF THE OLD CITY), TWO HAZARAS
WERE ACCOSTED BY SIX PLAINCLOTHESMEN AND TOLD THEY HAD
JUST "VOLUNTEERED" FOR THE ARMY. IN RESPONSE, THE
HAZARAS THREW PEPPER IN THE FACES OF THE PLAINCLOTHESMEN
AND PROCEEDED TO BEAT THEM UP. THEY THEN RAN AWAY,
DISAPPEARING DOWN THE TWISTING STREETS OF THE OLD CITY.
TWO OF THE PLAINCLOTHESMEN WERE REPORTEDLY HOSPITALIZED.

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C. CONFISCATION OF VIDEOTAPES. AFGHANS REPORT THAT
POLICE RECENTLY CONDUCTED EXTENSIVE SEARCHES OF HINDU
HOMES IN THE KART-E PARWAN AREA, CONFISCATING ANY
VIDEOTAPES THEY CAME ACROSS. NO REASON WAS GIVEN FOR
THE CONFISCATIONS, BUT IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT THE
GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO PREVENT THE CIRCULATION OF
MUJAHIDIN PROPAGANDA VIDEOTAPES, SOME OF WHICH HAVE
TURNED UP IN KABUL. AT THE SAME TIME AS THE VIDEOTAPE
CONFISCATIONS WERE TAKING PLACE, SOME HINDUS WERE
VICTIMIZED BY GANGS MASQUERADING AS POLICEMEN, WHO
ENTERED THEIR HOMES, TOOK VIDEOTAPES AND VIDEOCASSETTE
RECORDERS, AND THEN DISAPPEARED.

19. (U) POLITICAL/MILITARY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS
A. AFGHAN/REGIME REACTIONS TO DEATH OF PRESIDENT ZIA:
THE AUGUST 17 PLANE CRASH WHICH TOOK THE LIVES OF
PRESIDENT ZIA, AMBASSADOR RAPHEL, GENERAL WASSOM AND
NUMEROUS PAKISTANI OFFICIALS, AND THE REGIME'S OFTEN
INAPPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO THE TRAGEDY, HAVE
OVERSHADOWED EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN THIS WEEK. KABUL TV
NEWS CARRIED REPORTS OF THE DISASTER ON ITS AUGUST 17
EIGHT P.M. BROADCAST AS A BRIEF ITEM BURIED DEEP IN THE
NEWSCAST, WITH REPORTS LATER IN THE WEEK ADDING DETAILS
OF THE DISASTER. NAJIBULLAH SENT AN EXTREMELY COLD
CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO ACTING PRESIDENT GHULAM ISHAQ
KHAN, REFERRING TO THE CRASH AS AN "INCIDENT" AND NEVER
REFERRING TO PRESIDENT ZIA BY NAME. AFGHANS REPORT THAT
KHAD AND OTHER REGIME SUPPORTERS SPENT THE NIGHT OF
AUGUST 17 CELEBRATING PRESIDENT ZIA'S DEATH. PRIME
MINISTER HASAN SHARQ HELD A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE

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